

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
 OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES

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Investigation of:

MV ETHAN ALLEN,
 LAKE GEORGE, NEW YORK,
 OCTOBER 2, 2005

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 * Docket No.: DCA 06 MM 001
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Interview of: PETER GIONET

National Transportation Safety Board
 490 L'Enfant Plaza East, S.W.
 Washington, DC 20594

Wednesday,
 October 12, 2005

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to
 notice at 2:23 p.m.

BEFORE: BRIAN CURTIS

APPEARANCES:

BRIAN CURTIS

National Transportation Safety Board

ROBERT FORD

Investigator in Charge

National Transportation Safety Board

MAURICE ALDRICH

Warren County Sheriff's Office

HUGH QUIRK

Shoreline Cruises

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(2:23 p.m.)

MR. CURTIS: Good afternoon. I'm Brian Curtis of the NTSB. It's 2:23 on October 12, 2005, and we're going to interview Mr. Pete -- Peter Gionet, regarding the Ethan Allen accident on October 2nd, 2005. And we'll just go around and identify who is the room. Brian Curtis, NTSB.

MR. ALDRICH: Investigator Moe Aldrich, Warren County Sheriff's.

MR. GIONET: Peter Gionet, New York State Parks.

MR. QUIRK: Hugh Quirk, Shoreline Cruises.

MR. FORD: Bob Ford, Investigator in Charge, NTSB.

INTERVIEW OF PETER GIONET

BY MR. CURTIS:

Q. Okay, Peter, just a little bit of your background and how long you've been with your organization and who your organization is and --

A. Um-hum.

Q. -- similar background.

A. I'm a graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy Class of 1979. I spent six and a half years out at sea. I currently am employed by the Office of Parks and Recreation and Historic Preservation for New York State. I've been in that position for at least 19 and a half years at this time. My job -- my primary job duty with the agency is public

1 vessel inspector. I inspect commercial boats on state waters
2 and have been doing that for my whole term at state parks.
3 That's it.

4 Q. There have been comments made, that you may have
5 taken tools down into the engine of Ethan Allen at some point
6 during our inspection processes. And could you just elaborate
7 if you have, and if you had, what you did with them down there
8 in the below decks?

9 A. Which compartment are we talking about?

10 Q. In the engine space.

11 A. In the engine? I did not take any tools down into
12 the engine space, just a flashlight.

13 MR. CURTIS: I'll pass it along to Moe Aldrich.
14 That's all I have right now.

15 BY MR. ALDRICH:

16 Q. Okay. The bag that Tom Vrooman had mentioned, do you
17 have any idea what he's talking about?

18 A. I do own a tool bag, approximately 18 inches long,
19 maybe six inches wide, and maybe it's 12 inches deep.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. But it was -- again, it wasn't anything that you
23 brought?

24 A. It was on the vessel earlier in the day.

25 Q. Okay. Anything malicious that you did to the boat

1 during the NTSB --

2 A. Nothing.

3 MR. ALDRICH: Thank you.

4 BY MR. QUIRK:

5 Q. Hugh Quirk, Shoreline Cruises. I know why you
6 brought it on. Would you tell these fellows why you brought it
7 and why you --

8 A. I brought tools along because, in the forward
9 compartment, there was ballast weights. There are two planks
10 on either side of the gas tank which needed to be removed. So
11 I brought an electric drill with a screw bit on it and some
12 other tools so that we could look under those two planks to see
13 if there was any additional lead weights on the vessel.

14 MR. QUIRK: That was the only question.

15 BY MR. FORD:

16 Q. Bob Ford, NTSB. Have you had any earlier dealings
17 with Shoreline Cruises?

18 A. I inspect Shoreline Cruises' boats every single year
19 for the last 19 years.

20 Q. And your relationship with them every time?

21 A. I always have had good relationships with them.

22 MR. FORD: That's all I have. Thank you.

23 MR. CURTIS: I have no more. Moe?

24 MR. ALDRICH: No, that's it.

25 MR. CURTIS: Hugh?

1 MR. QUIRK: No.

2 MR. FORD: Yeah, I'm all set. Thanks.

3 MR. CURTIS: I guess that's it. It's 2:26 and that
4 concludes the interview. Thank you very much, Pete.

5 MR. FORD: Thanks, Peter.

6 (Whereupon, at 2:26 p.m., the interview in the above-
7 entitled matter was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: Investigation of MV Ethan Allen
 Lake George, New York
 October 2, 2005
 Interview of Peter Gionet

DOCKET NUMBER: DCA 06 MM 001

PLACE: Washington, D.C.

DATE: October 12, 2005

was held according to the record, and that this is the
original, complete, true and accurate transcript which has been
compared to the recording accomplished at the hearing.

David Martini
Transcriber